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BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire  
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Joint  
A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and of the  
Public Health Inspector  
for the year 1966  
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# MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1966)

* J.L. POWELL (Chairman of the Council)	..	..	..					Edwyn Ralph
J.T. ARNETT (Vice-Chairman of the Council)	..	..						Stoke Lacy
* Major M.A. BELLVILLE	..	..	..	..	..	..		Tedstone Delamere
* Mrs. J.M. BIBBINGS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cradley
* Miss D.A. BOUCHER, M.B.E.	..	..	..	..	..	..		Cradley
* G.J. BOWLER	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bishops Frome
* F. CALE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cradley
R.G. CARTER	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Thornbury with Hampton Charles
J.F. COTTON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Felton
H.G. EDWARDS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Wolferlow
F.C.L. ESSENHIGH	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Brockhampton
* O.H.M. HERFORD	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bredenbury
* H.C.C. HODGES	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Avenbury
* A.L. JAMES (Vice-Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee)	..	..						Whitbourne
S. LEIGHTON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Collington
E.T. LEGGE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Little Cowarne
* S. MEREDITH	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ocle Pychard
J.C. PAGE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Edvin Loach, Saltmarsh and Tedstone Wafre
* W.D. PORTER	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Acton Beauchamp
* T.I. POYNER	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ullingswick
T.L. RICHARDS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Stanford Bishop
* Mrs. A.M. ROBINSON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Linton
* Miss M. SHEPHERD	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Whitbourne
L.P. SHUKER	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Wacton
* O.J.E. SKYRM	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Upper Sapey
* S.S. SPROSTON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Norton
* D.J. THOMAS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Pencombe with Grendon Warren
Mrs. E.M. WALDRON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Much Cowarne
* J.H. WALLER (Chairman of the Housing & Health Committee)								Winslow
* Rev. W.G. WALTON	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bishops Frome
* W.J. VICCARS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Grendon Bishop

\*Members of the Housing and Health Committee



G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

N.E. WORDSALL,

Public Health Inspector,

Council Offices, New Road,

BROMYARD.

(Telephone: Bromyard 2341)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: C.A. PREECE

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector: Mrs. R.M.M. WILLIAMS

Clerk to the Council: J.B. SENIOR, Solicitor.



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To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1966, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

#### Statistical Section

Although the Still Birth Rate and the Infant Death Rates were higher this year, I do not think any deductions can be made from this fact as the actual figures are small: it is probable that over the years the figures do not vary much, taking 5 year groupings.

The Birth Rate does appear a little low this year, but quite a percentage of these births will have occurred in the families who are now tenants of the Council at Kirkham flats who moved from the R.D. area and are now officially domiciled in the U.D.

#### Infectious Disease

The chief point of note is the high incidence of dysentery. This figure refers to the summer outbreak at Whitbourne and Brockhampton Schools, and in the families of pupils at these schools.

In the absence of both myself and Mr. Worsdall the outbreak was dealt with by the Public Health Inspector of Bromyard Urban District. As a result of his investigations fairly extensive alterations, which had been planned, were executed at Whitbourne School.

#### Public Health Inspector's Section of Report

Once again I would like to thank Mr. Worsdall for his report and the work he has done which is reported therein.

I fully agree with his remarks about the provision of sanitary conveniences in areas frequented by picnickers and day visitors and hope that fruitful discussions with the Highway Authority can be initiated fairly soon.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

								<u>U.D.</u>
Area (In acres) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	61,114	213
Estimated mid-year home population .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,870	1,710
Average number of persons per acre .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.11	8.0
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,316	627
Average number of inhabited houses per acre .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.04	3.0
Average number of persons per house .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.0	2.7
Rateable Value .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	£131,633	£56,289
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	£515	£210

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total	<u>Total U.D.</u>
Legitimate	40	39	79	28
Illegitimate	4	1	5	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	44	40	84	33
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.15	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	<u>U.D.1966</u>
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	12.2	14.5	13.0	15.1	16.7	19.3
" " (Adjusted)	14.0	16.7	15.0	17.4	18.7	21.6
England and Wales	17.7	18.0	18.4	18.2	18.0	

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

						<u>U.D.1966</u>
Bromyard R.D. ..	6.0					15.1
England and Wales ..	*					

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total	<u>Total U.D.</u>
Legitimate	1	3	4	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	<u>U.D.1966</u>
Bromyard R.D.	45.4	Nil	21.9	9.6	17.2	Nil
England and Wales	15.4	15.7	16.3	17.2	18.1	

\* figure not yet available



INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total	<u>Total U.D.</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

U.D.1966

Bromyard R.D.	..	23.8	Nil
England and Wales	..	11.1	

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total	<u>Total U.D.</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

U.D.1966

Bromyard R.D.	..	35.7	Nil
England and Wales	..	12.9	

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total	<u>Total U.D.</u>
Legitimate	2	3	5	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

U.D.1966

Bromyard R.D.	..	67.2	Nil
England and Wales	..	26.3	

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total	<u>Total U.D.</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	<u>U.D. 1966</u>
Bromyard R.D.	(Total	47.6	20.0	22.5	19.4	8.8	Nil
	(Legitimate	38.0	22.7	23.3	20.6	9.3	Nil
	(Illegitimate	200.0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	(Total	19.0	19.0	19.9	21.1	21.6	
	(Legitimate	*	*	19.4	20.8	21.3	
	(Illegitimate	*	*	26.3	26.0	27.2	

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Total U.D.  
Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard Rural .. Nil  
England and Wales .. 0.26

#### DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total	<u>Total U.D.</u>		
Total number of deaths from all causes:	50	57	107	27		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:						
Comparability factor: 0.68	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	<u>U.D.1966</u>
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	15.6	10.8	12.6	14.8	13.7	15.9
"    "    (Adjusted)	10.6	8.6	9.3	10.9	10.1	15.7
England and Wales	11.7	11.5	11.3	12.2	11.9	

#### Cancer

	Males	Females	Total	<u>Total U.D.</u>		
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	14	8	22	7		
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:						
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	<u>U.D.1966</u>
Bromyard R.D.	3.20	1.02	1.90	2.63	1.91	4.09
England and Wales	*	2.23	2.20	2.17	2.18	

#### Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total	<u>Total U.D.</u>		
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	18	31	49	14		
Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:						
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	<u>U.D.1966</u>
Bromyard R.D.	7.13	7.87	6.86	7.32	7.34	8.19
England and Wales	*	5.95	5.73	5.22	6.14	

\* figures not yet available

DEATHSRespiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total	<u>Total U.D.</u>
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	7	6	13	1

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home  
population:

	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	<u>U.D.1966</u>
Bromyard R.D.	1.90	1.60	1.46	1.75	1.47	0.60
England and Wales	*	1.41	1.37	1.71	1.57	

\*figure not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	10	4	14
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	12	17
Coronary disease, angina	7	4	11
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart disease	6	7	13
Other circulatory disease	-	7	7
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	-	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	7	13
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	1	-	1
	50	57	107

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BROMVARD DURING THE YEAR 1966

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	13
Measles	15	2	-	-	2	1	2	3	-	2	2	5	34
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	40	1	-	-	-	-	-	41
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1966

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	26	6	37
Measles	52	8	4	5	2	2	3	15	39	21	35	85	271
Scarlet Fever	5	2	1	-	3	8	1	-	5	-	-	4	29
Erysipelas	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Acute Encephalitis:													
Infective	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	9
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	1	4	2	3	-	-	2	4	92
Food Poisoning	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	9
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary <sup>4</sup>	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Disease	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Whooping Cough	13	1	7	16	1
Measles	34	57	205	230	19
Scarlet Fever	1	-	1	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	1	2
Acute Encephalitis:					
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	41	2	-	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	2	-	-	1
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	1	-	1	2	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	1	1	1

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE

Whooping Cough	37	5	70	29	13
Measles	271	525	609	507	337
Scarlet Fever	29	12	8	12	9
Erysipelas	4	3	2	3	5
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	2	-	-	2	2
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	1	2
Acute Pneumonia	9	3	8	13	15
Dysentery	92	6	3	7	1
Food Poisoning	9	8	14	7	5
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	1	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	4	8	10	9	7
Non-Pulmonary	3	3	3	1	2
Malaria (contracted abroad)	-	-	-	-	1



NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASECOMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	North Here- fordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	1.00	0.40
Measles	7.33	7.15
Scarlet Fever	0.78	0.44
Erysipelas	0.11	0.03
Acute Pneumonia	0.24	0.17
Dysentery	2.49	0.44
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.09
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.11	0.26
Non-Pulmonary	0.08	0.04

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1965.	14	21	5	6
New cases notified	1	-	-	-
Moved into district	1	-	-	-
Recovered	-	1	1	-
Died from other causes	-	1	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1966.	16	19	4	6

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1962	2	52	-	3
1963	3	44	-	2
1964	2	44	2	-
1965	1	46	-	1
1966	1	45	-	2

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORTWATER SUPPLY

The Herefordshire Water Board continued with their plans for mains extensions throughout the area, and during 1966 the mains to Fromes Hill and on to Ledbury Rural District were completed. This meant that further parts of the parishes of Stanford Bishop, Acton Beauchamp, Bishops Frome and Evesbatch were supplied with water. Longer serving members of the Bromyard Rural District Council might be interested to know that this extension to the Ledbury Rural District was only made possible by their co-operation in providing that the mains up to our boundary were of sufficient capacity to warrant this, and therefore the foresight shown by Bromyard R.D.C. enabled this particular area of the county to be supplied with water much earlier than would otherwise have been possible.

For various reasons, the progress on the mains laying through Bishops Frome and Much Cowarne to Burley Gate and Ocle Pychard was rather slow than had been hoped; however, by the end of 1966 the parish of Bishops Frome had been connected to the River Teme supply. This meant that the small pumping and filtration works erected at Bishops Frome by the Council in 1954 went out of commission.

The effects of the national credit squeeze slowed down the contract which is intended to serve most of the parish of Thornbury and part of the road to Bredenbury, but this scheme should go ahead during 1967.

Besides the larger contracts, it is gratifying to note the number of mains extensions inaugurated by the Herefordshire Water Board following approaches by groups of individuals.

The table given later in this section indicates that at the end of the year 838 houses had been connected to Water Board mains: this shows an increase of just over 200 on the year, but it is pointed out that many more properties are in the process of being connected and each year should therefore show a progressive increase in the number supplied by the Board.

There was no evidence of plumbo solvency in the area, and it is noteworthy that complaints of unsatisfactory private water supplies get fewer and fewer. A rough estimation of the general situation would be that one third of the dwellings are on public mains, one third are affected by contracts in the course of completion, one twelfth of dwellings are in course of connection, and a further twelfth have a satisfactory private supply: one sixth have unsatisfactory private supplies.

Routine Sampling

Thirtythree samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, and of these 14 were found to be completely satisfactory. Samples taken from public mains were always satisfactory.



WATER SUPPLY (Continued)

Details of connections to Water Board mains as follows:-

Acton Beauchamp	13	Bishops Frome	83	Tedstone Wafre	8
Avenbury	3	Grendon Bishop	31	Thornbury	-
Bredenbury	9	Linton	66	Ullingswick	4
Brockhampton	2	Norton	79	Upper Sapey	30
Collington	-	Ocle Pychard	29	Wacton	4
Little Cowarne	14	Pencombe	28	Whitbourne	82
Much Cowarne	-	Stanford Bishop	19	Winslow	23
Cradley	231	Stoke Lacy	30	Wolferlow	5
Edwyn Ralph	25	Tedstone		<u>Total: 858</u>	
Evesbatch	8	Delamere	12		

Standpipes - Nil

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

HOUSING

When compared with the rest of England, it will be noted that the rate of private development within the Bromyard Rural District is still relatively slow, although the figures for 1966 do suggest that the pace may be quickening. The following table gives a comparison of houses completed during each of the last nine years: at the end of 1966 there were 23 houses in the course of erection.

Private houses completed

1966	27
1965	17
1964	17
1963	23
1962	9
1961	9
1960	4
1959	6
1958	7

The revision of the County Development Plan is still in the course of discussion but it is open to some doubt as to whether a revised plan will by itself encourage people to develop this part of the world.

HOUSING (Continued)

Mainly because your officer was actively engaged elsewhere, the work in connection with so-called slum clearance has not been very great during 1966 as the following figures will indicate:-

Number of Time and Place notices served:	5
Number of Demolition Orders:	1
Number of undertakings to repair accepted:	3
Number of houses demolished as result:	1

Nevertheless, the improvement in the general standard of housing in the area continues, as will be indicated by a close study of the improvement grant work. Further than this, a good deal of improvements are in train as and when mains water reaches various cottages and not always do the owners seek grant aid for this work.

Quite clearly, in the not too distant future it will be necessary to carry out another rural housing survey because only by doing that will the Council have any really up to date information on the present standard of accommodation. It seems that the carrying out of this survey ought really to wait until the water schemes have been completed, and the full effects of our new village sewerage schemes are felt.

Local authority housing development has been given second place in this year's report, mainly because the Council have been unable to start or finish any new housing projects, with the exception of the conversion of old school premises at Acton Beauchamp. There has been intense activity in the preparation of housing schemes for Cradley, Acton Beauchamp and Bishops Frome and towards the end of the year attention was being directed to the purchase of about ten acres of land on the borders of Bromyard Urban District with a view to the R.D.C. building houses there to serve both their own area and the U.D.C.

The conversion of school premises at Acton Beauchamp, the second to be carried out by the Council, has proved very successful and with the assistance of an improvement grant the financial aspect of the scheme has been worthwhile. The Council now have three dwellings on this site and during 1967 they hope to build three new dwellings making a compact development, and one able to make full use of the extended aeration sewage disposal works which the Council installed initially to serve the school premises. Premises of this nature are proving of great value to the Letting Committee besides making effective use of otherwise neglected properties.

Work on the consideration of improvement grants, both discretionary and standard, takes a considerable amount of your officers's time, but when the results are seen, it is obvious that the effort is well worth while. Of course, some of the results are better than others but even in the borderline cases, the houses are given a new lease of life.

HOUSING (Continued)Discretionary Improvement Grants

	<u>1966</u>
No. of houses in respect of which full applications were made:	12
Outstanding at December, 1965:	3
No. of houses in respect of which full applications were offered:	14
No. of houses in respect of which applications were withdrawn or refused:	1
No. of houses in respect of which applications were outstanding at year end:	Nil
Total grant offered in respect of above works:	£5421.10. 0.

Standard Grants

No. of houses in respect of which applications made:	23
No. of dwellings improved:	12
No. of applications withdrawn or rejected:	1
No. of applications approved:	22
Value of grants paid:	£2564. 9.10.

New Houses

No. of Local Authority dwellings completed:	Nil
Add conversion of one school:	2
No. of private dwellings completed:	27
No. of Local Authority dwellings in course of erection at December, 1966:	Nil
No. of private dwellings in course of erection at December, 1966:	23

Unfit Houses

No. of houses subject to Time and Place Notices:	5
No. of houses subject to Undertakings:	3
No. of houses subject to Demolition Orders:	1
No. of houses demolished as a result of Time and Place Notice and before Demolition Order served:	1

### RATS AND MICE

The joint rats and mice scheme with Hereford, Ross and Ledbury Rural Districts has worked extremely smoothly and much credit is due to the officers at Hereford and to Mr. Tristram in particular who has submitted the following comment.

Rodent control in the areas covered by the joint scheme does seem to have had some effect on the rat and mouse population, for 1966 seems to have been one of our best years.

The milder winter also played its part without doubt in the smaller infestations encountered. Mr. Tristram recalls that when Bromyard R.D. joined the joint scheme for rat control, there were many large infestations in the area, but nowadays they are much more difficult to find. Good relations with the people whose premises we treat under contract does help, and information is passed on to their friends and neighbours: publicity is also very useful.

A two day course on rat control was held in Worcester by the Ministry of Agriculture during the year and was attended by one of our staff. Resistance to Warfarin was one item discussed, but so far none has been detected in the Bromyard area. Mr. Tristram gathers that the chief pest officers for the Ministry would very much like more local authorities to organise their pest services on the lines adopted in this part of the County.

### REFUSE COLLECTION

During 1966 the Council gave detailed consideration to a comprehensive report on the possibilities of refuse collection and disposal for the future. The Council had directed that this report should deal with the question of abandoning the calendar month collection and substitute one of not greater than fortnightly intervals.

In the event, it was decided to introduce the paper sack system based on a fortnightly collection and of course doing away with the old kerbside idea. The work was to be carried out by the contractor previously employed and he was to use two ordinary type tipper lorries each with one driver and no assistant. Every effort was made to service each dwelling within the area, bearing in mind that up to date possibly not more than 60% of houses had benefited from the collection and then only if the occupants were prepared to bring their bins to County roads. In fact, one of the considerations which the Council bore in mind in adopting the paper sack system was that so many of our houses are accessible over fairly long distances on roads which are not maintained by the County Council.

The change over of systems did not begin until about the second week in December so that the report for 1967 will have to deal with the experiences gained.



REFUSE COLLECTION (Continued)

The details up to the end of 1966 in respect of the old kerb-side monthly system are as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Properties</u>	<u>Loads</u>
1954	6421	17371	182
1955	6487	18082	185
1956	7228	19591	202 $\frac{1}{2}$
1957	7432 $\frac{1}{2}$	19989	198
1958	7508	22758	243
1959	7957	23698	253 $\frac{1}{2}$
1960	8036	23780	253
1961	8820	23561	306 $\frac{1}{2}$
1962	8990	25904	295
1963	9480	27240	342
1964	9351	26917	354
1965	8834	30834	407
1966	10545	31950	417

The subject of refuse disposal will continue to exercise the Council's attention, especially as refuse is becoming bulkier and bulkier as time goes by. Two of our tips, Tedstone Wafre and Ridgway Farm, were closed during 1966 though it is pleasing to note that these relatively small areas of land are shortly to be put to gainful use.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Unfortunately, the schemes in the parishes of Bishops Frome and Cradley were not completed by the end of 1966, and there was also disappointment in that the preliminary preparations for Whitbourne, Pencombe and Linton made very little progress during the year. It is never easy to purchase land for sites for sewage disposal, and perhaps one has to learn to be patient.

The Cradley scheme especially was rather difficult and caused a good deal of inconvenience to the residents; as a consequence, relations between the Council and several members of the public were at times extremely strained.

The Ministry indicated that the proposed scheme at Bredenbury was, in their opinion, too expensive, and suggested that the Council might care to think the matter over once more. The proposals for Linton were the victim of the national credit squeeze, and at Pencombe the difficulties over the purchase of the disposal works site prevented further progress. At Whitbourne, active planning began, and an approach was made to the owners of the various sites; there were indications that these negotiations would prove successful.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (Continued)

Mention has been made elsewhere in this report of the extended aeration plant installed on a very small site at Acton Beauchamp. In your officer's opinion, plants of this nature have much to commend them on the grounds of absence of smell, quality of effluent and the comparatively small area of land required for their construction.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

This is a subject which must come to the front within the Bromyard area very soon, especially within the areas of Bromyard Downs and Bringsty Common where the number of visitors during the summertime increases year by year. As numbers grow, so do the complaints received from persons living on or near the Common land who, justifiably, do not take kindly to visitors or others using their garden hedges, etc., as public lavatories.

From a health point of view it does seem that very soon the Council will have to consider providing sanitary conveniences at lay-bys in the areas mentioned. Mains water supply is available and disposal of drainage would not be very difficult. It would appear that this is a matter for co-operation between the Rural District and the County Councils who might be willing to provide proper lay-by facilities at points where it is practical to build public lavatories.

HOP-PICKING ACCOMMODATION

A summary of the 1966 position is given below:-

Total number of farms:	67
Number of farms housing pickers:	7
Approx. number of pickers housed in 1966:	74
(excluding travellers, gipsies, and small children)	
Estimated children:	20
Estimated travellers:	100

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD(a) Food and Drugs Act

No. of food shops (a) total:	24
(b) comply with Reg. 16:	16
(c) to which Reg. 16 applies:	Nil
No. of public houses:	25
No. of premises registered for sale of ice-cream:	27

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Continued)(b) Slaughter of animals

No. of licensed slaughterhouses in  
this district: Nil

No. of licensed slaughtermen: 7

(c) Poultry Inspection None in this area.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec.1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	1	1	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	7	6	1	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found:

Sanitary conveniences (S7)

(a) Insufficient 1 case referred by H.M. Inspector.

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134) Nil.

